



ROAR

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PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



OK, for all of you who are disgusted with this weather, here is the answer....a snow glide....



Everyone I have talked with over the last month or so is ready to ride and tired of overcast, frigid temps, and snow. I've met people who have just bought a new bike, people who are looking at new bikes, people with bikes in storage, and people in foreign countries. All the comments are the same "this weather sucks!!!!!!"

Well good news, that white spot at the



end of the tunnel isn't more snow....it's Spring! When riding temps get here, we WILL be ready. Our Activities Committee already has us trekking to Arizona and California this month followed by a summer full of local and

overnight rides with another Adventure Ride to the Ozarks in September. Thanx, Lodens.

We also need to recognize the fantastic efforts of our Awards Committee in conducting this year's annual Awards Banquet. Every year it gets better thanx to the work, the dedication and the passion of folks like the Rigsbys and Bradburys. To all of the award recipients...our congratulations. Our special thanx and congratulations to Gene Rigsby for his recognition as Top Cat of the Year!



As you read this remember, Spring commences 20 March 2014, less than three weeks from now so....hang in there another 400 +/- hours!!!!!!



Let's roll...safely....
Traveler
President
Top Cats – Illinois

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 4 General Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting
- 16 GRASS Class
- 29 to April 6 CA Adventure Ride

APRIL

- 1 General Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting
- 27 2014 Kick-Off Ride

Winter Events are in the works too... Put your idea on the calendar for March, and April... Riding Season will be back soon!





KAUTION KORNER

Electrical Storms: Don't Light up your Ride

By: Gene Rigsby, Road Captain



Last year Noelle and I were heading out to help set up the "Ride For Dreams" event, which was being held in Woodstock. It started to rain just as we were leaving our garage. We had a feeling it was going to rain, and even though the weather report sounded more promising, we were dressed for rain. This was by no means the first time we ever rode in the rain and I know most everyone reading this article has experience with this as well.

Well on this particular day, as we moved down the road through the rain, it got significantly worse as we rode. Eventually, though, it started to ease up and we thought we may be in the clear. But as most of you know as well, those thoughts usually are the indicators of the 'worse that's yet to come'! As we sat waiting for a traffic light to change, there was the sudden rumble of a nearby lighting strike! It shook both of us, not only physically, but mentally as well. Sitting in the rain, exposed, with an electrical storm building is an intimidating thing and I felt very vulnerable.

When talking about this situation with others, I heard many people compare riding exposed ON a motorcycle to the old traditional thought of being protected from lighting while riding IN a car, I started to research how true this thought truly is. As you can imagine, there is a great deal of information about this on the internet. Google this topic, and see firsthand, the variety of information on this topic.

Here is a summary of one article, by James R. Davis, which gives a general idea of the things you need to consider when riding... with thunder and lightning! James R. Davis is a recognized expert witness in the fields of Motorcycle Safety/Dynamics. The article is entitled, "Electrical Storms Riding out from under them could be a big mistake" and the full article can

be found at: <http://www.msgroup.org>.

James begins by looking at a common myth....

"No doubt you have heard that because your tires are made of rubber, and because rubber is not a good electrical conductor, so long as you keep your feet on the pegs lightning will not hit you since it cannot find a path to ground through you and the bike. WRONG!!! Though rubber is a pretty good insulator of the normal voltage levels we mere humans deal with, it is not very effective against the voltage in a lightning bolt. "



Also, you may also have heard that if a lightning bolt hits a car the occupants are safe because the car is riding on rubber tires, etc. Actually, this is almost true! So long as the occupants stay away from anything metal they will more than likely survive a lightning hit without any injury whatever. What protects occupants of a cage is not their rubber tires, but the fact that they are enclosed in a metal container. If a lightning bolt hits the surface of the car it spreads around the occupants, NOT THROUGH THEM, and goes to ground."



(Continued on pg 3)



KK Continued...

Now, James looks at the science that goes with this conversation...

"A lightning bolt that hits you or your motorcycle is a different matter entirely. Let me give you an idea of magnitudes we are dealing with here. The master fuse on your bike handles about 30 amps before it blows. An average lightning bolt produces a current of about 20,000 amps. Even 30 amps can easily kill you because it disrupts your heart's electrical system and the heart then simply stops working. Your heart doesn't stand a chance against a lightning bolt."

Sounds like pretty convincing information that would make you LOOK more definitely at what to do while riding in rain... and also on what NOT to do. James offers some comments on this too...

... "If you are out in the open on your bike when lightning flashes begin, and if you can hear the thunder caused by those flashes in less than three seconds from when you see the flash, it's time to stop your bike and get off it.

- ✦ *Immediately find low ground, but NOT under a single or small group of trees.*
- ✦ *Squat on the ground with your legs together, head lower than back, but NOT touching the ground. Do NOT lay on the ground.*
- ✦ *LET YOUR CLOTHES GET WET!!! (In this way, if you are hit the majority of the electricity will follow the moisture of your wet clothes around your body.)*
- ✦ *Do not get up until thunder following a lightning flash is AT LEAST five seconds after the flash. (Which means the lightning struck more than 1 mile away.)*

Incidentally, lightning can, and DOES, hit the same place twice - frequently.

If there are more than 5 seconds between the lightning flashes, (indicating a mile in distance) and you're hearing that thunder, head for shelter. This is the only time trying to ride out from under an electrical storm makes any sense.

Best shelter, of course, is a hard covered surface connected to ground with metal. Get under it and wait out the storm."



I hope this article helped to educate, inform and will motivate further research so that you will be more comfortable in making a call as to whether or not you should continue to ride. I feel it is more effective to hear news you may not want to hear by self-education. "Lectures" are just not as effective! You know - folks with the hardest heads, are less likely to wear a helmet if they are TOLD to wear one! (that would be me).

Oh, by the way, Noelle and I rode back home after hearing the thunder and drove our car to the event. Eventually, we were able to bring our bikes out, though too late for the actual ride. Later in the day, it was a nice afternoon and many were able to enjoy the good weather and safely ride back home.

Stay safe

Gene



March Celebrations!

Let us know your important dates
so we can celebrate with you!!



20th—Jessica Flynn

25th Jane and Greg Smith



ROAR

NewTops Cat you Should Know...

Bob and Genie Stevenson



Bob

I grew up in Northern Vermont on the

Canadian border so I have always been an outdoorsman. I was raised on skis, snowmobiles, motorcycles and classic cars. I had a project for every season and loved to build, tinker and take any engine and give it more power.

I went to college in Philadelphia and knew my dream of returning home to live clashed with my more immediate need to make a living so after I received my Electrical Engineering degree, I accepted a position with a company in St. Charles Illinois and Genie and I moved here in 1981.

We missed our outdoor life and shortly after moving here I bought a 1986 Harley Wide Glide, the last model with the kick start. We enjoyed riding and exploring our new home.

Our newfound hobby came to a shattering halt when I was hit by an elderly man driving drunk on Mothers Day, 1986. My beautiful new bike was damaged, I was severely injured and after a long painful recovery I returned to work in January 1987.

The bike was repaired and returned to me where it sat in the garage for many months. I made the decision to sell it that following spring.

Fast forward to 2009 when the biking bug hit me again..., Genie had just purchased a Harley 1200 Custom and while helping her change the oil one day I thought..., why not..., and before the week was out I was on a Police Road King.

We enjoyed riding together, exploring the beautiful Midwest and spent the next two seasons exploring the roads less traveled.

In 2010 Genie bought a new bike and I decided it was time to retire the Road King and buy a bike that was a better fit for me. In December 2010 I purchased my 2011 CVO Road Glide Ultra. It was my dream bike and we have enjoyed many rides throughout this beautiful United States.

For the past several years we have gone to Scottsdale to ride during AZ Bike Week and last year we had the pleas-

ure of meeting Terri and Tony Loden who have become good friends, encouraged us to join Top Cats and this year we are excited to join the Western Adventure!

Genie

I am a Philadelphia Jersey shore girl born and raised. My Dad was a teacher and when I was in high school took a position with a school in Northern Vermont, on the Canadian border..., I met Bob my junior year of high school and the rest is history!

I went to college in Philadelphia and shortly after, Bob accepted a position in Illinois and we started a new adventure in our lives!

I have always loved motorcycles and have been a passenger for as long as I can remember. When Bob bought his Wide Glide I purchased my first bike a Suzuki 650 and learned on my own to ride. We loved the freedom of the bikes, the beautiful country roads and meeting wonderful people along the way.

When Bob had his accident we decided that careers were more important at this time in our lives so in the spring of 1987 we sold both bikes.

Fast forward to 2009 when the biking bug hit me again..., I had a girlfriend taking the State of Illinois Motorcycle class and on a whim I showed up the evening of the class and someone didn't show up so I was able to take the class. It felt so good to be back on a bike again and when I passed the class and got my motorcycle endorsement I felt on top of the world.

I purchased a beautiful 1999 Harley 1200 Custom from a girl who had bought it new and took such loving care of it. I had so much fun riding with a group of girls I'd been introduced to by Tammy who I bought my bike from there was no keeping me down. When Bob purchased his Road King we road together and enjoyed exploring every country road in every nook and cranny of the Midwest. Bob suggested we join a riding group to meet people who shared our interests so we joined the McHenry County HOG Chapter.

(Continued on page 5)



TC—Genie Stevenson Cont...

In the winter of 2010 I broke my collarbone on a fall down the stairs and spent 3 months in traction. Because my recovery was so painful and slow I went to the doctor for additional testing and learned I had degenerative arthritis. I spent months considering my options and in the spring of 2010 went into the dealer to look at the Harley trikes. I liked being able to continue to ride without the fear of falling so in the summer of 2010 I bought my trike and have not looked back since.

We have had many adventures, riding to many beautiful areas in our United States, experiencing every kind of climate from 22 degrees at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in April to 107 degrees in Branson in July... every ride and every destination is an experience and the people we meet along the way are the icing on the cake!

For the past several years we have gone to Scottsdale to ride during AZ Bike Week and last year we had the pleasure of meeting Terri and Tony Loden who have become good friends, encouraged us to join Top Cats and this year we are excited to join the Western Adventure!

Another Top Cat You Should Know... Kathie Bradbury!

Written by: Mike Bradbury

Kathie has been riding with me on Top Cat rides for 8 years and is now officially a Top Cats member! We've done many rides together; day rides, multiple day rides multi state rides, and "drowned rat" rides and we will soon be going on the Adventure Ride to southern California. You may recognize her by her nickname "Highway Honey" which is painted on the back of her helmet.

Kathie is the Executive Assistant to the President at Advocate Condell Medical Center and has been with Condell for 23 years! And might I add, she has been married to me for 25 years! We have twin daughters who are 24 years old and named Erika and Taylor who live too far away for our taste. Both are graduating college this year, Taylor at the University of Texas and Erika at Illinois State. We still manage getting together but unfortunately only a few times a year.

When not riding with me on my 2008 Harley Davidson Street Glide named "Blaze", Kathie also likes to ride horses. We both enjoyed a trip to Hunewill Ranch in Northern California for our 25th wedding anniversary last June where we were galloping and jumping horses across long, wide open meadows with the Sierra Nevada mountain range in the distance.

I'm happy to have Kathie joining me now as an official Top Cat and we both look forward to the upcoming Top Cats rides and social events and of course, we are anxiously awaiting the start of the 2014 riding season!



Welcome, New Top Cats!

Top Cats' Awards Program

By Traveler

Over many years, the Top Cats have enjoyed the results of a lot of hours of work contributed by a lot of dedicated members. Typically, we plan, we do, we enjoy, and then we forget and move on to the next activity. In the wake of our many successful activities lie the often unrecognized efforts of many of our members, our committees, our road captains and our Board.

In 2010 we reenergizing our Awards Program to help recognize all of those who have done so much for the Club.

As a reminder to all, here is a quick synopsis on our Awards.....

We have two categories of recognition; Category One which has eight standard categories of recognition.....

Tenure Awards

- 3 Year Membership Pins
- 5 Year Membership Pins
- 10 Year Membership Pins
- 15 Year Membership Pins



Road Captain Qualification

White Road Captain Tabs



Senior Road Captain Qualification

Black and Gold Tabs



Rides Lead Awards

(Presented to road captains for leading specific number of rides)

5 Rides = Bronze Star Pin

10 Rides = Silver Star Pin

20 Rides = Gold Star Pin



Recruiting Patch

Leather Top Cats Patch
(Presented to members who bring in a new member)



Sturgis Veteran

(Presented in increments to those riding with the Club to Sturgis)

Sturgis Veteran Pin

5 Year Sturgis Veteran Pin

10 Year Sturgis Veteran Pin



(Continued on page 7)



Awards, Continued

Vice President's
Award

Volunteer of the Year Trophy
(Presented by our VP to recognize a
deserving Top Cat)



The intention of our Awards Program is to recognizing those members who have done so much for all of us and to perpetuate that recognition at our Annual Top Cats Banquet. This program is just like our rides....if you don't participate....you don't get to experience the fun.....

Founder's Cup

Top Cat "Hall of Fame" Award
Presented only periodically by the past recipients to the Top Cat who best reflects our founder "Virgos" vision)

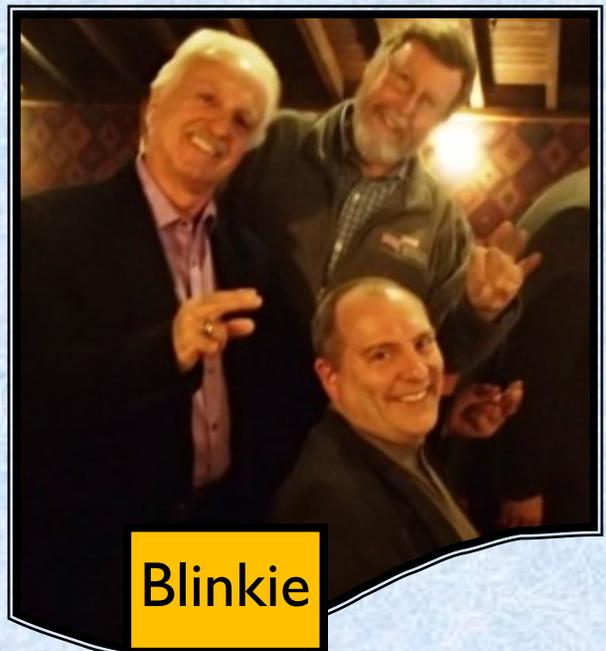


TWO New Road Names were also revealed...
Ask them for the details!

And Category Two, where the Club traditionally recognizes and presents annual "Fun" awards for such categories as...

- Most Scenic Ride
- Most Grueling Ride
- Wettest Ride
- Favorite Ride
- Most Dedicated Passenger
- Safest Rider
- Most Accessorized Bike
- Loudest Pipes
- Oldest Bike
- Cleanest Bike
- Loudest Bike
- Quietest Bike
- Dirtiest Bike
- Late to Ride

Annually, the Board and our Awards Committee identifies and selects candidates for Category One Awards and asks our members in good standing to submit names for our Category Two Awards. Your input makes this program work so well so...don't hesitate to vote / nominate when you're solicited.



Oil Spots

By Traveler

BMW MOTORRAD USA 2014 PRICING

BMW Motorrad USA has announced pricing for their five latest 2014 models, which were unveiled late in 2013. The models are set to arrive in dealerships by early spring of 2014.



2014 R nineT: The all-new [R nineT](#), commemorating 90 years of BMW Motorrad, will start at \$14,900 for the Standard Package, which includes Integral ABS, a modular frame and mounting points for easy customization.



2014 R 1200 GS Adventure The updated [R 1200 GS Adventure](#) has a base price of \$18,200 and four special packages:

- Comfort Package (\$500), a chrome exhaust, heated grips and a tire pressure monitor.
- Technology Package (\$1,425), an LED headlight, Pro riding mode option, heated grips and a tire pressure monitor.

- Touring Package (\$1,925), dynamic ESA (Electronic Suspension Adjustment), On Board Computer Pro, GPS preparation, cruise control, LED auxiliary lights and saddlebag mounts.

Customers can opt for the Premium Package version of the R 1200 GS Adventure (\$21,500), which combines the

Touring and Technology Packages as well as a steering damper, adjustable passenger seat, stepless adjustable windshield and removable passenger pegs.



2014 R 1200 RT: The base model (\$17,650) adds over \$1,100 of value to the 2014 [R 1200 RT](#)'s predecessor, including heated grips, two riding modes and Automatic Stability Control, while raising the price by only \$300.

The motorcycle has six special package add-ons, a Premium Package and a long list of individual upgrades.

The six special packages include:

- ✦ Comfort Package (\$850), chrome exhaust, central locking, tire pressure monitor, anti-theft alarm and dual accessory socket.
- ✦ Touring Package (\$1,400), Dynamic ESA, GPS preparation, heated seats and cruise control.
- ✦ Dynamic Package (\$275), hill start control, headlight pro and the Pro riding mode.
- ✦ Technology Package (\$1,525), Bluetooth, audio system, chrome exhaust, radio software, tire pressure monitor and a dual accessory socket.
- ✦ Luxury Package (\$1,525), Bluetooth, gear shift assistant pro, audio system and radio software.
- ✦ The R 1200 RT comes in a Premium Package (\$20,850) configuration that combines the Touring, Dynamic and Technology Packages and a steering damper, On Board Computer Pro and LED white turn signals.



2014 K 1600 GTL Exclusive: The [K 1600 GTL Exclusive](#) is the fully-loaded version, at one simple price of \$29,950. It has additional equipment that its predecessor, the K 1600 GTL Premium Package, did not have,

keyless riding, heated back rest, exclusive exhaust, armrests, additional storage space and ground lighting.

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2014 S 1000 R: The latest version of the [S 1000 R](#) starts with a base of \$13,150. Add-on packages include Sport (\$845) to add gear shift assist, dynamic traction control and cruise control, and Dynamic (\$955) for dynamic damping control, heated grips and an engine spoiler.

Customers can also opt to upgrade to the Standard Package (\$13,995) for the Pro ride mode and the Sport Package. Another option is the Premium Package (\$14,950), which includes both the Sport and Dynamic Packages as well as the Pro riding mode.

AMA APPLAUDS BILL LIMITING E15

The American Motorcyclist Association is calling the Agricultural Act of 2014 a victory for riders because it contains a provision that would deter distribution of E15 fuels into the U.S. marketplace.



Passed by the U.S. House of Representatives Jan. 29, the bill will be considered by the U.S. Senate next week before going to President Obama for his signature. □□

AMA says motorcycles and ATVs could be damaged by the use of E15 fuel (a gasoline formulation that contains up to 15 percent ethanol by volume). □□ The Farm Bill prohibits the use of Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant money to purchase and install special ethanol blender pumps for use at the retail level.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack intended to use REAP funding to install 10,000 blender pumps by 2016. □□

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved E15 use in 2001-and-newer light-duty vehicles, which include cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles, the EPA has not approved its use in any motorcycles or ATVs. □□

The AMA has repeatedly expressed concerns about potential E15 misfueling and the subsequent damage that the fuel can have on motorcycle and ATV engines and fuel systems. The AMA believes that blender pumps dispensing E15 at service stations will create a high potential for inadvertent E15 misfueling by consumers.

ONLINE TOOL FOR INSURANCE PRICING

North American riders researching different insurance protection plans can now use a new online tool from Auto

Pros that is capable of generating current-year price quotations. <http://autoprosusa.net/motorcycle-insurance/>



The tool reportedly lets users research every national provider of insurance using ZIP code matching. All ZIP codes that riders enter into the online system are checked and validated before pricing is delivered via the system.

"This expanded way to research motorcycle insurance protection plans is helping more rides to explore policy information before giving up personal details online," an Auto Pros spokesperson said.

"One way that our system is different from telephone quotations is the speed and accuracy of the price delivery for each quote request," the spokesperson said.

The company is planning monthly updates. Direct warranties from top agencies are also searchable using an additional set of tools.

LATEST 2014 HONDAS

American Honda has introduced the 2014 models, adding to their lineup the Interceptor and Interceptor Deluxe, CBR650F, CB1100 and CB1100 Deluxe, and the Repsol Edition Montesa Honda Cota 4RT trials bike.



Interceptor (\$12,499) and Interceptor Deluxe (\$13,499): Honda re-

vamped the [Interceptor](#) image, offering two versions of the sportbike,

which has a single-sided swingarm and an upright riding position. The seat is adjustable, though only by 0.8 inches.

The 782cc engine has updated fuel-injection mapping for better torque, and the radiator sits up front to provide a slimmer profile.

The Deluxe model has ABS, traction control, grip heaters, self-canceling turn signals and a center stand. Both models, which come in red or pearl white, will show up in dealerships in May.

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Oil Spots, Continued...



CBR650F (\$8,499-8,999):

The [CBR650F](#) has a 649cc inline four engine and is designed to be comfortable for commuting and long hauls. Honda has not announced pricing, but they are already touting the CBR650F as an incredibly fuel-efficient motorcycle.

The base model does not include ABS, so it is included on the model that comes with the higher, \$8,999 price tag.

Color options are red, candy blue, matte black and metallic, and Honda also says there will be a long list of accessories available in the summer of 2014.

CB1100 (\$10,399) and CB1100 Deluxe (\$11,899):

The [CB1100](#) goes for retro appeal. Honda is promoting it as the modern reincarnation of the iconic CB750. It has a six-speed transmission and an updated system that keeps track of MPG, trip details and gear position.



In addition to more perks, the CB1100 Deluxe is also designed to feel even more retro. It boasts ABS, a larger fuel tank that carries half a gallon more than its counterpart, a four-into-two exhaust, a retro-styled seat and new side covers.

The CB1100 comes in black only, while the Deluxe model is a bright candy red.



Montesa Honda Cota 4RT Repsol Edition (\$8,999): Coming in May, the limited-edition [Cota 4RT Repsol Edition](#) is a Montesa trials bike powered by a Honda 260cc engine.

The bike has fuel injection and a decompression system reducing engine braking, making the four-stroke motor perform like a two-stroke. Showa suspension and wide footpegs are notable features.

WOMEN BIKER RALLY SET

Charlotte Ammons wants to give a whole new meaning to term “Dragon Lady.”

The riding instructor for two Harley-Davidson dealerships is behind plans for the Thundering Beauties Biker Rally, a women’s motorcycle rally set for 24



– 27 July July at Hungry Mother State Park.

Ammons hopes to make the rally an annual event to raise funds for charities related to women’s issues. This year, it will benefit Go Red For Women, an effort to raise women’s awareness about heart disease and wellness. Next year, Ammons said, the focus may be domestic violence prevention.

She got the idea for the rally last year while riding with her daughter on the Back of the Dragon, the 32-mile stretch of Rt. 16 that crosses three mountains between Tazewell and Marion.

The rally will include riding the Back of the Dragon through Smyth and Tazewell counties, self-guided rides, live entertainment, an appreciation banquet, and a vendor show. Several bands will be playing at the rally, including Acoustifried, a country rock band from the Tri-Cities; Cash Revisited, a rockabilly band from Kingsport, Tenn.; and Rock & Roll Freakshow, a classic and origin rock band from Kingsport, Tenn.

Details at: <https://www.thunderingbeauties.com/>

VICTOR DEBUTS 2015 'GUNNER' AT CHICAGO MC SHOW

Victory Motorcycles unveiled its new bobber at the International Motorcycle Show in Chicago, giving the public its first look at the 2015 Victory Gunner.

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Oil Spots Continued...

Victory says the Gunner is designed to offer the power of a cruiser while still giving riders agility and bobber styling. It is powered by a 106ci V-twin motor, and the full-size chassis features what Victory calls



“lean-angle engineering.”

The Gunner has a lowered seat height and other bobber cues.

“Bikers have been asking us to give them a bobber with some real power, and that’s exactly what we’re giving them with this bad boy,” said Steve Menneto, vice president of Polaris Motorcycles. “The Gunner offers a much-needed option for serious riders in the market for a bobber.”

The public will get the chance to take the Victory Gunner for demo rides in March during Daytona Bike Week.

DROP IT AND DRIVE!



Chances are, at some point, you’ve uttered a phrase like that after witnessing someone on the road talking, texting or surfing the Web on their cell phone while driving.

Statistics confirm; most drivers know, but continue to ignore: distracted driving is dangerous and deadly.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drivers using hand-held phones are four times more likely to get into an accident causing injuries. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that more than 3,300 fatalities nationwide – about 10 percent of all traffic deaths – occur as a result of distracted driving.

And, in Illinois, nearly 6,000 crashes occurred from 2008 to 2012 in which some form of driver distraction involving a cell phone was cited by police, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Of those, 30 were fatal.

Gov. Quinn signed into law a ban on the use of hand-held cell phones while driving in Illinois and increased penal-

ties where use of an electronic device leads to a crash resulting in serious injuries.

The new state law prohibits motorists from talking on all but hands-free mobile phones while driving. Under the new law, fines start at \$75 for drivers caught using a hand-held cell phone while driving. Drivers could pay \$150 for repeat offenses and may eventually have their driver’s license suspended. Drivers who cause fatal crashes while using a hand-held electronic device could wind up serving up to three years in prison.

The goal is to educate drivers about the hand-held cell phone ban that took effect Jan. 1, 2014, and remind motorists that if they drive with a phone in one hand, they can expect a ticket in the other.

NEARLY HALF OF STURGIS GOERS ARE WOMEN

Nearly half of the visitors to the annual Sturgis rally are women, according to a survey conducted at the 2013 rally. Other results of the survey are less surprising. Most survey respondents are over 40, own a home and have an annual household income of more than \$75,000.

Sturgis rally director Brenda Vasknetz said that more than 25 percent of visitors planned to stay for eight days or longer. “That was a surprising fact for me,” she said. “I wouldn’t have thought it was that high.”



The information comes from a city-funded survey of nearly 2,000 attendees over eight days at the 2013 rally..

Age information was compiled through a separate survey. It showed that 76 percent of rally-goers are between 41 and 65 years old, and 44 percent are women.

Among other information in the city survey report:

About 50 percent of attendees ride to the rally on their motorcycle; about 37 percent arrive by car or truck.

About two-thirds of those survey respondents who own a motorcycle own a Harley-Davidson. The next most frequently owned motorcycle (less than 10 percent) is a Honda.

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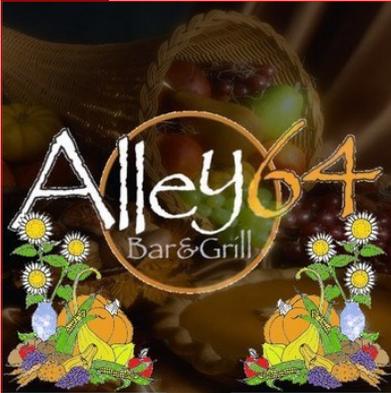


ROAR

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 4TH, 2014

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters



Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

by Wayne Kirkpatrick, President, Top Cats Illinois

Membership was asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance

President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Ground Hog Day – Top Cat's Style!
- Everyone expressed displeasure with the weather and the continued cold, but when asked to express that displeasure by buying a beer for the President... there were no takers! So, it seems that there will be another six weeks of winter!
- Meeting Place Feedback has continued to be positive. Alley 64 has been working to accommodate the requests that the club has made.
- Positions within the club that still need to be filled are the Sergeant at Arms and 50/50 sales person.
- Because Ben C of the Illinois State Police could not be present, Ric Case will present some of the early Top Cats History tonight.
- The January Shootout was another great time for those in attendance. The Club is developing some great talent on the range!

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

- Mike made note of the great job that Tony and Teri Loden are doing in developing the Spring "Adventure Ride". Mike's observations included:
 - ⇒ The ease in working with the transport company,
 - ⇒ The quality of the organization for accommodations on the trip,
 - ⇒ The interesting stops that have been planned.
 - ⇒ He rated the overall process in planning this event as "Top Notch".

Vice President's Report: Larry Scalzitti

Larry was unable to make the meeting tonight due to the start of Tax Season.

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- As Always, the ROAR is an opportunity for the people of the club to develop their comments and ideas about motorcycling and publish them for the Club. Contact Mary if you would like some space in the next edition!
- The Rosters have been updated with all of the most recent information. Please add Top Cats to your list of 'Important People' to notify if there are any changes in your contact information.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Johnson

- Stewart reported:
 - ⇒ Top Cats is financially sound and all tax information has been completed for 2013.
 - ⇒ That we have 64 members and 52 paid members is our 'break even' number in generating our annual budget.
 - ⇒ All information on the financial status of the club was reviewed and can be found on the website. Members can also ask Stewart to view the figures as well.

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Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

- All members present were given their 2014 membership cards and were reminded to complete the emergency information on the back of the card.
- As of now, there are no new ideas or requests for any new apparel.

Safety / Charity: Ric Case

- Ric reviewed and summarized the results of the Road Captain meeting on January 26th.
- Members wanting to develop and lead a ride should try to contact a Senior Road Captain for assistance. But, if it isn't possible to access a Senior Road Captain, The Road Captains are now authorized to assist as well.
- The Charity Committee is doing very well at this time. All of the plans are on target and the committee will always welcome new hands and ideas! See Ric Case or Noelle Rigsby to become part of the team!

Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

- Gene was unable to make the meeting, but Tony Loden reviewed the upcoming ride events.
- An update was given on the Awards Banquet. All is ready for the 22nd! It promises to be a wonderful night with a great turnout.

History/Web Site: Jeff Tietz

- Rich Flynn gave an update on the future of the website. He is planning on update to the software as the present program is completely outdated and unsupported. When reconstruction is completed, it will allow for quicker turn-around time on information to be posted for the membership.

History Discussion

Presented by Ric Case

In order to maintain and pass on the *Foundations* and *History* of the club, Ric Case, one of the original Top Cats... with some supporting details from Wayne Kirkpatrick and Tom Malia.... Presented stories from the past...

- The first top Cat meeting was on the patio of Top Cat's founder, Virgo Bender. It was the summer of 1995 and the main topic was, "What rides are we going to create?" The idea of having a president or a board was just not as important at the time as the places that the group would see together.
- Following meetings were held the Barn in Barrington. Virgo would assign rides to the other members with a "You.... You will take us _____!" His vision was to see, learn, grow, and ENJOY the things that you can do on a bike!
- The first 'official' ride met at Quentin and Lake Cook and rode to Eagle Harbor with two chase vehicles. As the tour progressed... legend has it... in Escanaba, Michigan, there was a "Welcome Top Cats" Banner hanging and it brought a tear to Virgo's eye. (it may have been tears, but motorcycle legend only allows for one tear!)
- Wayne also highlighted the changes that have come about in the way that ROAR approaches the Club information... It's present form is definitely not as risqué as the ROARs of the past!
- There are many more stories of Top Cat History to come... but if you want to research on your own, Barrington Library has all of the past ROARs as well as pictures of the past... Very interesting research! So much Hair!!!!

50 / 50 was not pulled again... We need a volunteer to take this position as well as a Sergeant at Arms.

**After the meeting tonight:
Jim Purcell has agreed to be our Club's SGT at Arms!
Jim and Lisa Purcell have volunteered to take on the 50/50
THANKS!!!**





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 11TH, 2014

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois
Submitted by Mary Walters

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Mike Bradbury, Emil, Kornecki, Ric Case, Mary Walters, Larry Scalzitti,

Excused: Stewart Johnson, Gene Rigsby, Jeff Tietz

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick called the meeting called to order at 7:30.

- Meeting Location Feedback continues to be positive. Some of the 'indicators' include the number of people who are eating at the meetings as well as the fact that members are coming early and staying late. It seems that the new site is agreeable as well as enjoyable.
- The March 4th General Meeting will include a visit from Ben Chikaraishi as well as our old friend SGT Rich Kosik, from the Illinois State Police. It will be good to see them both, but especially good to welcome Rich back after his extended medical leave.
- The ISP is offering the Bikesafe Illinois Rider Skills Course again this summer. It will be free to all participants and the dates are: 5/17/14, 6/21/14, 7/12/14, and 8/16/14. It is a great opportunity to learn new skills and to get feedback on your riding ability from an expert motorcycle officer.
- The Purcells have agreed to take charge of the 50/50 each week and Jim Purcell has volunteered to become the club's Sergeant at Arms.
- A 2d Annual Adventure Ride is also being planned for September. It will be a 'Southern' destination in and around the Ozarks. It is promising to be as great a ride as the 1st!
- 2014 Web Site changes are being planned for this year. Rich Flynn with the assistance of Jeff Tietz and Dennis Dougherty are looking into the types of programs that are available and assessing which one would best fit our needs now and into the future. This change will allow new information to be uploaded more quickly and that will keep our website current and contemporary. It will become a more accurate representation of our club and the events that are taking us forward.
- An agenda change will be made to the General Meetings that will allow us to highlight members of the club each month. This will allow the club friendships, as well as the 'network', to be fostered and energized.
- A discussion was held to address a request for disseminating member business information by way of the Mass Blasts. It was decided that:
 - ⇒ The Mass Blasts should remain strictly for publishing Club information and events so that the impact will not be diluted. It was also noted that there are already processes available for circulating information within the club.
 - ⇒ Each member has access to the contact information of willing members through the website.
 - ⇒ The ROAR is available for business notices as well as member business information.

Vice President: Larry Scalzitti

- Larry asked that the VP award guidelines be clarified. The discussion produced the following observations about the award. The award 'guidelines' have never been solidified for a number of reasons:
 - ⇒ It could create a 'focus' on the award and those guidelines only.
 - ⇒ It could limit the creativity within the club for new and innovative ideas.
 - ⇒ With the guidelines being vague, it allows for recognition of actions that will keep the club current within the motorcycle community while maintaining the Club's integrity.

The award can evolve with the changes in times and requirements within Top Cats.

(Continued on Page 15)



Secretary: Mary Walters

- Updates to the rosters will be sent with the minutes. They will include the information from the newest members who were added to the rosters tonight.
- The ROAR articles can be submitted at any time with a designation for when the author would like them to be published. Road Captains can write their articles now and they will be held until their assigned month. Having information ahead of the due date allows for a less stressful process in publishing for everyone.

Treasurer: Stewart Johnson,

Stewart was unable to attend, but sent an email report stating that our finances are secure.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

Mike had no specific comments or ideas of concern this evening.

Director: Gene Rigsby

Awards

- Gene was unable to attend this evening, but Mike Bradbury updated the Board on the Awards Banquet. All is ready.

Activities

- It was suggested that routes for the rides be loaded into the website. This was agreed upon and will be pursued by the activities committee as well as the website committee.
- A discussion was held on the idea of having memorabilia for the rides. Ideas centered on the definition of what rides would be eligible and who would receive the pieces. Patches, T-shirts, and rockers were discussed as possibilities. Wayne will task the activity committee to address this for the 2014 riding year.
- The membership will also be surveyed to see what activities ideas they had for this summer.

Director: Emil Kornecki

Membership

- A motion was made for four nominations for membership by Emil and a second was given by Ric Case. The four nominations were unanimously accepted as new members. They are:

Kathie Bradbury
Faye Braun
Bob Stevenson
Genie Stevenson

These new members will receive their packets and membership cards at the March General Meeting.

Products for 2014

- Once the Activities Committee decides on ride memorabilia, this will be ordered by the products committee.
- The Purcells would like to order the Top Cats jacket, and others have also expressed an interest. Emil will look into the order.

Director: Ric Case

Safety

- The Kaution Korner schedule has been finalized for 2014.
- The Road Captains will be looking into and identifying a need for Emergency Kits.
- A discussion was held as to the need for CPR and ASM classes. The Road Captains and the membership will be polled to see what numbers we would have for each.

A motion was made by Ric that the Road Captains be reimbursed for ½ of the cost after the course is completed. Mike Bradbury was the second and the motion passed unanimously.



(Continued on page 16)



Board Meeting, Cont.

Charity Committee 2014

- The next meeting of the Charity Committee will be on Tuesday, February 18th.
- The Save the date cards will be finalized and passed out to members at the March 4th general meeting.
- There are 8 volunteers for the Cabin Fever event at Woodstock on February 22nd.
- The NISRA Recognition Banquet will be on March 12th. A motion was made by Ric to subsidize \$10 for each member that would attend. The board passed this with a vote of five in favor and one opposed. A Mass Blast will be sent to the members with the information on the event.
- Ric had a copy of *Thunder Road*, a publication focused on Northern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin motorcycle events. It was suggested that we publish information on our Charity Ride in this periodical. All agreed. There will be 25 copies that will be brought to the next general meeting for the members.

Director: Jeff Tietz

- Jeff was unable to attend this evening, but will update the board on his recent review of our insurance coverage and liability limits. We have applications for four quotes on insurance at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Oil Spots Continued...

- ✦ More than 80 percent of all survey respondents own their own home, and nearly 30 percent of them have no mortgage payment. Fewer than 20 percent are renters, and most renters are in Sturgis to work.
- ✦ Individual spending varies but mostly ranges from \$100 to \$299 per day. About 30 percent of visitors spend less than \$100 per day, and about 15 percent spend more than \$300 per day.

SKULLY SMART HELMET

Skully, a smart helmet equipped with a **heads-up display (HUD)** to deliver a 180-degree rear view, GPS directions, smartphone pairing, and will someday even communicate with your motorcycle to put important data a mere glance away.

The heads-up display is projected onto a small, adjustable prism located just above and inside of the helmet's chinbar. Skully will rely on voice commands (like Siri), acting as a digital personal assistant. Think KITT, the Knight Rider car, inside your helmet.

Like NUVIZ, Skully is still undergoing final development but aims to bring a DOT-certified helmet weighing less than 5 pounds to market by spring/summer of 2014, with an MSRP around \$1,500.



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10:00 am - 11:30 am

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Lisa Purcell

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TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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2014....

Record our Top Cat History!
Take pictures... Write Stories....
And Submit them to the ROAR!

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about **150** pages of our club photos.

They are found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barringtonhistory/tags/topcats/>.

Check them out... and see how things used to be..

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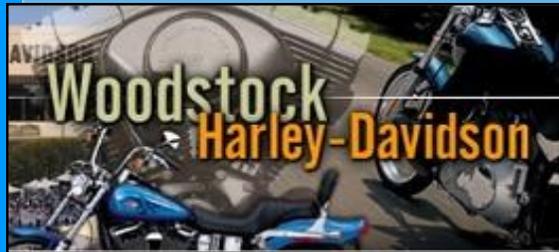
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E-mail: scalzitti@mindspring.com

Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson



Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson

Membership Has Its Privileges!

All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing discounts to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for an enterprising and creative individual to assume responsibility for coordinating the content on our soon-to-be upgraded website. No 'technical' website experience is required.

The primary responsibility will be to work with the webmaster and various individuals who 'own' certain areas of the website to ensure our content is fresh and inviting as well as come up with ideas for additional content and enhancements to the site to bring more value to our members.

For more information contact any board member or

Richard Flynn

RichFlynnJr@aol.com

WANTED



Top Cats Historian

The Top Cats Board is looking for a member to become official historian for the club.

Over the next year we want to create a written and oral history of our club that we can share with existing, new, and potential members.

The club turns 15 in 2010. Many of our legacy members have or will be moving on. We want to capture their and others' stories of our humble beginnings as well as favorite tales of the road.

If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (*Wombat*) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, March 4th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, March 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, March 16th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Harris Bank Bldg	8:00 am	Case
Saturday, March 29th- April 6th	California Adventure Ride	Phoenix, AZ to start then off to....	Sunny California!	Individual Flight Arrivals	T 'n T Loden
Tuesday, April 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, April 8th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday April 27th	2014 Kick -Off Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at www.TopCats.org.



Barrington Library

Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300

balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners.

Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.

This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org



ROAR



TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies.

For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at www.TOPCATS.org

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org